



Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Pollution Control Program

MISSOURI'S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) PROGRAM

Missouri is committed to full public participation in the TMDL process. Without public understanding and support for TMDLs, implementation plans for impaired waters will not succeed. There are multiple options being pursued to provide opportunities for meaningful participation by interested stakeholders. This document records the options Missouri is pursuing; however, it should not be construed that every element detailed in this plan will be used for every TMDL. Each TMDL is a unique situation and the elements will be applied accordingly. Also, new avenues and tools are continuously being identified. This plan will be a living document that will be revised as experience is gained and other methods are identified.

It is essential to make TMDL information readily available to all interested parties and federal law requires public input into the TMDL process. This document should show citizens how they can have input to the TMDL program.

The Water Pollution Control Program in the Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers the TMDL process. The major issue in addressing public participation is timing. It is difficult to resolve the conflict between the timing of public information efforts in multiple watersheds and the TMDL development schedule dictated by the TMDL lawsuit settlement. The department will continue to strive to solicit public participation early in the TMDL process, but this is not always feasible. One solution is to develop TMDLs with a phased approach and solicit public participation after the document is produced. The phased approach allows adjustments and changes to be made in the document as the implementation plan is further clarified.

Main Elements of Public Participation in Missouri TMDL Program

I. Public Participation on Proposed TMDL Program Actions

Frequency

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| A. Public Notice / Public Comment Periods | Every proposed action |
| B. Public Availability Sessions | As needed or requested |
| C. Public Meetings | As needed or requested |

II. TMDL Development

- A. Solicitation of Available Data
- B. Information Posted on the Internet and Supporting Database Development

III. General Outreach and Education

- A. TMDL Policy Advisory Committee
- B. Presentations at Meetings and Conferences
- C. Displays at Meetings and Conferences
- D. Media Coverage
- E. Written Outreach Materials

IV. Related Programs

A. Stream Team Program Sponsorship

I. Public Participation on Proposed TMDL Program Actions

A. Public Notice/Public Comment Periods

Public Notice (PN) is an announcement that a document or pending action is available for the interested public to review and submit comments. This announcement will include how to access the document/information and the period of time it is available for public comment (usually from one to six months). TMDLs and Missouri State Operating Permits (new, renewed or revised) are on public notice for 30 days.

- The following TMDL related documents are public noticed for comment:
 - Methodology document for 303(d) list development
 - 303(d) list revisions
 - TMDL Strategy Document
 - TMDLs for specific waterbodies
 - Revisions of the Missouri Water Quality Standards
- Public Notices related to TMDLs are distributed to the following list via e-mail or as hardcopy sent via regular mail:
 - All affected permitted entities in the watershed
 - Legislators whose constituents live in the affected watershed
 - Mailing list maintained by Water Pollution Control Program of those who routinely receive public notice of NPDES permits
 - Missouri Clean Water Commission members
 - Missouri Stream Team volunteers
 - TMDL Policy Advisory Committee members
 - Water Quality Coordinating Committee members

Anyone can request a hard copy by calling (573) 751-7428 or writing to the Water Pollution Control Program, Planning Section, PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176.
- Public Notices related to TMDL issues are posted on the department web site at:
www.dnr.state.mo.us/wpscd/wpcp/wpc-tmdl.htm
- News releases on TMDL public notices will also be distributed to affected areas through The Link, a comprehensive news service that reaches local newspapers, TV and radio stations.

B. Public Availability Sessions

To dispel rumors and counteract undue concerns, Public Availability Sessions may be held. These sessions will be held as the need arises and may be requested by watershed organizations or other parties in the watershed being affected by a TMDL. These sessions are usually held after a plan or action has been proposed or issued. In these sessions, knowledgeable personnel are available to answer questions from the public and disseminate correct information. The personnel may include representatives of

- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Assisting entities, such as, EPA, Missouri Departments of Conservation and Agriculture, NPS, NRCS, SWCDs, USGS
- Commodities Groups
- Environmental Organizations
- Local Watershed Groups
- Public Entities

C. Public Meetings

When appropriate, public meetings will be held prior to TMDL development and/or throughout the implementation. The department will outline the problem, suggest possible solutions and provide information on funding sources. Input will be sought from stakeholders on issues such as TMDL study development, appropriate management choices, available data and information, and methods for achieving voluntary compliance. Extensive efforts will be made to include stakeholders through public notices, established watershed organizations and media outlets. Local groups that request a public meeting will sponsor these meetings or the department will initiate a meeting when the need becomes apparent.

Public meeting agendas will include:

- Presentation of relevant TMDL information for a specific watershed or watershed impairment.
- Presentation on funding opportunities.
- Facilitated breakout sessions to record participant concerns and suggestions.
- Identification of stakeholders willing to participate in continuing watershed efforts.

II. TMDL Development

A. Solicitation of Available Data

All quality assured data will be evaluated for impairment determination and TMDL development. As TMDLs are being developed, data is identified and requested from various sources. In addition, any data provided by the public during the public participation period will be considered. Sources of data currently being utilized:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Corporations
- Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR data)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI)
- Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Health
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources - includes information from the Water Quality Monitoring Section, Environmental Services Program, Land Reclamation Program, Public

Drinking Water Program, Hazardous Waste Program, Solid Waste Program, Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division and the Regional Offices.

- Missouri Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Municipalities
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Other States
- United States Geological Survey
- United States Park Service
- University of Missouri and other academia
- Watershed Partnerships

B. Information Posted on the Internet and Supporting Database Development

A plan is being developed to facilitate data management and information exchange. This element falls under TMDL Development, but will also be an excellent way for the public to access information about any waterbody in which they have an interest. Funds have been made available and a committee is currently assessing needs and putting together a phased plan for data management improvements. The plan includes database development to electronically track all pertinent TMDL information including:

- Status of TMDL development
- Water quality data
- Waterbody location, impairments and sources
- Schedules and project timelines
- Affected permits
- Nonpoint source efforts

The plan also addresses the ability to access other sources of data. The goal is to download information into the appropriate software from a wide variety of sources including:

- STORET - EPA's national database
- WQIS - Water Quality Information System used by the Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) to track permit information
- LIMS - Laboratory Information Management System used by the department's laboratory
- Other computer-based information systems

Additionally, it includes improvements for **uploading** information into STORET. Incorporation of project-management-software will also be a part of the data management project. All products will be developed with the goal of the information being posted on the department's website in a GIS format.

The department recently contracted a consulting firm to develop a project plan for a comprehensive data management system within WPCP.

III. General Outreach and Education

A. TMDL Policy Advisory Committee

The TMDL Policy Advisory Committee is currently limited to 30 participating members. This is not a voting group, but serves in an advisory capacity. Final decision-making on all TMDL policy resides with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program. The meetings are open to the public, but only official participants will be allowed to provide input. Sub-committees have been established to address specific topics, and members include, but are not be limited to, members of the advisory committee. The TMDL Policy Advisory Committee meets the third Tuesday during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting dates may be changed if agreed to by participants. Exact dates, times, location and minutes of past meetings may be found on the TMDL Web page at:

www.dnr.state.mo.us/wpscd/wpcp/wpc-tmdl.htm

Goals for TMDL Policy Advisory Committee

- To obtain stakeholder input into TMDL-decision making
- To foster stakeholder support for Missouri's TMDL policies
- To provide a mechanism for representatives of stakeholder groups to obtain accurate information on TMDL issues and assist with dissemination of information to their constituents

TMDL Policy Advisory Committee Participants

- Representatives from the regulated community
 - JD Information Services, Inc. (Agricultural Chemical Industry)
 - Mark Twain Wholesale Water District
 - Metropolitan Sewer District of St. Louis (Large Municipal)
 - Midwest Environmental Consultants
 - Mining Industry Council of Missouri
 - Moberly Public Works (Small Municipal)
 - Regform (Information/Legislative Organization of regulated entities)
 - Regional Commerce and Growth Association (St. Louis Chamber of Commerce)
- Representatives from agriculture/silvaculture
 - Corn Growers Association
 - Farm Bureau
 - Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI)
 - Missouri Forest Products Association
 - Mo-Ag (Information/Legislative Organization for Agriculture)
 - Poultry Federation
- Representatives from environmental groups
 - Coalition for the Environment
 - Missouri Stream Teams
 - Missouri Watershed Coalition (Statewide Organization of Stream Teams)
 - Sierra Club
 - Watershed Committee of the Ozarks (Springfield area watershed partnership)
- Representatives from federal agencies

Environmental Protection Agency
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Geological Survey

- Representatives from state agencies
 - Missouri Department of Agriculture
 - Missouri Department of Conservation
 - University Outreach and Extension (Missouri and Lincoln Universities)
- Representative from Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Representatives from the legal field
 - Attorney General's Office
 - Washington University Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic
- Representatives from the Department of Natural Resources as appropriate to agenda

Total number of standing members (not including the department) = 28

B. Presentations at Meetings and Conferences

TMDL presentations provide the opportunity to inform large groups of people in an efficient manner. General awareness of TMDL issues is critical to successful public participation. The department has produced an electronic PowerPoint presentation on TMDL basics and disseminated it to agency staff and TMDL Policy Advisory participants. Anyone may use this presentation. The person to contact for a copy is Sharon Clifford, TMDL Coordinator, 573-751-7298. Target audiences for presentations include:

- Agency Conferences
- Chambers of Commerce
- Commodities Groups
- County Commissioners
- Engineers and Consultants
- Environmental Groups
- Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
- Municipal Leaders
- Professional Societies
- Resource Conservation and Development Councils
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Treatment Plant Operators
- Water Environment Federation and similar professional organizations
- Watershed Partnerships

The department will periodically sponsor statewide meetings to address water quality issues and disseminate information.

C. Displays at Meetings and Conferences

Displays are an effective tool to inform and educate. They will usually be part of an Availability Session. They may also be used at Public Meetings, at any other watershed or TMDL meeting, and at conferences.

D. Media Coverage

Media coverage provides a mechanism for education of the public and announcement of public participation opportunities. News releases and participation in all media opportunities will be utilized to enhance public awareness. This includes use of print, radio, television and video production opportunities. Two examples are the national TMDL video, *Keeping Our Waters Clean*, that became available December 8, 2001, and public announcement spots on radio and TV.

Currently, department news releases are distributed through The Link, a comprehensive subscription news service. News publications may or may not choose to run the information. All departmental news releases are posted on the Web at www.dnr.state.mo.us/newsrel.

E. Written Outreach Materials

- Generic articles about TMDL issues will be generated and disseminated to appropriate newsletters.
- TMDL related material is posted on the Web at: www.dnr.state.mo.us/wpscd/wpcp/wpc-tmdl
Items posted include:
 - Methodology document for 303(d) list development
 - 303(d) list, present and proposed
 - TMDLs on Public Notice or completed and awaiting EPA approval
 - All final EPA-approved TMDLs
 - Information Sheets (see last bullet below)
 - TMDL PAC Committee meeting dates and minutes
 - TMDL litigation status
 - Information on the TMDL video
- Handouts for presentations and exhibit displays for meetings will be produced.
- Brochures will be generated as need dictates.
- TMDL information will be added to utility bill inserts.
- Information Sheets for all waterbodies on the 303(d) list are being produced and are available to the general public. These give pertinent information about the waterbody and describe the problem in easily understood terms. Maps and data are included. As these sheets are completed, they are being posted on the TMDL Web site.

IV. Related Programs

A. Stream Team Program Sponsorship

The Stream Team Program is a statewide water quality volunteer program sponsored by the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The primary aim of the program is to “promote citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation.” It trains, provides information and supplies equipment so citizens can participate in:

- educating others on water resource issues and stewardship
- planting trees in riparian corridors
- performing litter pick-ups
- stenciling storm drains
- becoming an advocate for their adopted stream
- being part of the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program
- participating in the public decision-making process at the local, state and federal level.

As of January 2002, there were 1871 Stream Teams in Missouri and more than 2390 individuals who have attended an entry level Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Workshop. The Stream Team Program provides a readily available group of informed citizens who are concerned about water quality in their community. They have repeatedly demonstrated a willingness to participate in water quality information dissemination and decision-making. They sometimes are the only local representatives that do not have a direct economic stake in water quality concerns.

For more information on the Missouri Stream Team Program, see the following web site:

<http://www.mostreamteam.org/>

RECAP

Missouri is committed to full public participation in the TMDL process. TMDLs are as individual as the varied watersheds they strive to improve. It is unrealistic to expect every element in this plan apply to every TMDL watershed. Each item of the Public Participation Plan will be applied as appropriate within the scope and requirements of any specific watershed or TMDL.